

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A toolholder unit for sheet metal bending brakes, comprising a bar (1) to be associated with a fixed or movable part of the brake, and provided with at least one recess (9) forming with a jaw (12) associated therewith a groove (11) to receive the shank (7) of the tool (5), there being provided elastic means (20) to maintain said jaw spaced from said recess and from the shank contained therein, and locking means to clamp said jaw against said shank, characterized in that said locking means comprise: at least one slider axially slidable within a seat facing that side of the bar (1) facing the jaw; at least one appendix (175) projecting from said slider beyond that side of the bar facing the jaw; at least one cavity (21) provided in the bar (1), or in a part (2) rigid with it, to receive said appendix (175); and means (18) of variable profile to cause said slider (17) to undergo controlled translations relative to said bar (1).
2. A unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said appendix is a ball.
3. A unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said means (18) of variable profile comprise a component pivoted at its head to the bar on an axis parallel to the bar axis, and an operating handgrip which is hinged to said component on an axis perpendicular to the bar such that said component and said handgrip are able to assume a rectilinear profile perpendicular to the bar, and a folded profile which matches the corresponding plan profile of the adjacent bar portion.
4. A unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said component presents a slide track against which the profiled proximal end of said slider is constantly urged elastically.

5. A unit as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said track comprises a sunken portion which in plan presents an arched shape, the center of which lies on the axis on which the component is pivoted to the bar, and the base of which provides an inclined surface for the profiled end of the slider.
6. A unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that means (223) are installed on the jaw to cause the jaw to undergo its maximum opening.
7. A unit as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said means (223) comprise a rod slidingly mounted in a longitudinal seat in the jaw, said seat opening to the outside via a first slotted aperture from which there emerges a peg facing the bar, and via a second slotted aperture from which there projects an operating head at the disposal of the user, said peg being arranged to slide between a rest position, established by an elastic thrust means acting on the rod, where it faces a flat region of the bar, and a working position chosen by the user, in which the said peg is positioned in front of a matching sunken region of the bar.